

Notes and Observations

LATE EMERGENCES OF *BISTON BETULARIA* L. (LEP.: GEOMETRIDAE). — M. N. McCrea's useful observations concerning *B. betularia* (*Ent. Rec.*, 96. 186) call for comment. Both Barrett (*Lepidoptera of the British Isles*, 1895-1902) and South (*Moths of the British Isles*, 1908) give May and June, sometimes July, as the flight period of this moth, while the former states also that it has been taken as early as the end of March. In S. E. England it does in fact fly throughout July and well into August. During the decade 1975-1984 some 1,500 *betularia* have been noted at my m/v light at Dartford; of these just over 50% were for July, 36% for June, 10% for August and just under 4% for May. Also, in nine of the years from 1969 *betularia* was recorded at the trap as late as August 20th, the latest date being a fresh female on August 30th, 1984.

B. Kettlewell (*The Evolution of Melanism*, 1973) emphasizes that *B. betularia* in Britain is invariably univoltine, and flies from late May to August, and that the larvae are found from June to October. Here the larval period stretches into November; thus, on November 10th 1984 several were noted on broom, laburnum, *Circis siliquastrum* (Judas-tree) and ornamental *Prunus*, the first three of which do not appear to have been noted previously for Kent, which is surprising in the case of broom and laburnum, upon which *betularia* feeds regularly in N. W. Kent.

Thus it would appear that September *betularia* are undoubtedly but late examples of an extended single brood. However, is not this species perhaps, in S. E. England at least, one whose peak emergence tends to be later than formerly? — B. K. WEST, 36 Briar Road, Bexley, Kent.

CATOCALA ELOCATA ESPER IN THE CHANNEL ISLES. — A female specimen of this moth has recently been found in the G. B. Coney Collection of Lepidoptera in the City of Bristol Museum. The data on the specimen reads as follows: "On wall of house St. Saviours, Jersey. G. B. Coney 20.X.1903. Identified by Mr. Holland at the Hope Museum Oxford. 8.XI.1907." This would appear to be the first record of this species from Jersey (communication with R. F. Bretherton). This species, which is widespread in France, may well turn up in Great Britain, perhaps there are specimens in collections which have been misidentified as *C. nupta* which it closely resembles. — N. W. LEAR, 178 St. John's Lane, Bedminster. Bristol BS3 AR.

APION SEMIVITTATUM GYLLENHAL (COLEOPTERA: APIONIDAE) IN SOUTH ESSEX. — It would seem worthy of placing on record the occurrence of the weevil *Apion semivittatum* Gyllenhal in my small back garden at East Ham, [London], South Essex on 30th September 1984. Several specimens were found on plants of annual mercury *Mercurialis annua* which my wife, Lesley, was weeding-out